

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-11 are pending. By this amendment, Claims 1, 2, and 12-23 are canceled. The subject matter of Claim 1 is incorporated into Claim 3. The subject matter of Claim 6 is incorporated into Claims 8 and 9. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that Claims 3, 8 and 9 contain patentable subject matter.

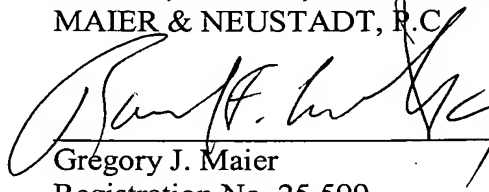
The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over USP 6,456,459 to Sasaki. This rejection is moot. Claims 3, 8 and 9 have been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of their corresponding independent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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